COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Military Clothing Costs Due for July Increase

The cost of most required clothing in all the armed forces will be boosted July 1 because of increased manufacturer's charges, and the military manpower build-up.

The "per bag" cost varies by service, with Navy's rate lowest and Marine Corps' highest.

Beginning July 1, rates on a complete issue of required clothing will be: Marine Corps, $264.09 compared to present rate of $211.66; Air Force, $248.95 compared to $183.20; Army, $206.73 compared to $165; and Navy, $190.64 compared to $166.21.

The two types of clothing maintenance allowance are a basic allowance of $4.20 monthly paid through the 36th month of service, and a standard maintenance allowance beginning with the 37th month of service paying $6 a month to airmen, sailors and marines and $5.40 to soldiers. Navy E-7s and above receive $7.20 monthly after 3 years in grade.

MILITARY ACADEMY HONORED—Maj. Gen. Donald V. Bennett, USA, Supt. of U.S. Military Academy (left), accepts Silver Anvil Award from Robert B. Wolcott, Jr., national president of Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Academy was honored for "Educator Visits Program" in which secondary school guidance counselors visit West Point for introductions to Academy's facilities, curriculum and military training.

U.S. Officials Explain Delay In NVN Monsoon Offensive

U. S. officials have offered explanations for North Vietnam's delay in launching its anticipated full-scale monsoon offensive.

They credited heavy enemy losses suffered earlier this year as one possible explanation. The enemy is still probably trying to recover from the severe setback suffered the first 90-120 days of this year, the officials said.

Friendly forces have continued to make substantial gains since then, the officials said, leading the officials to believe that the present situation represents the best advantage friendly forces have had to date.

Another explanation offered for the enemy's present reluctance to mount its full-scale offensive, the officials said, could be they are awaiting outcome of recent political activity in the Republic of Vietnam.

Defense Small Business Contract Awards Increase

Small business firms received $4.9 billion in Defense prime contract awards the first nine months of FY66, an increase of $1.27 billion over the similar period during the previous fiscal year.

This report was submitted to President Johnson by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, along with break-down of $22.7 billion awarded during the period.

Secretary McNamara reported that small business had participated fully in the Defense build-up and prime contract dollar volume increased in each program except missile and space systems. Small business, however, showed a gain in this area.

Some 640 large business firms reported they committed roughly 48 percent of their prime contract dollars to subcontractors. Nearly 42 percent of these subcontracts went to small business, a slight increase over the previous period.

Washington Memos

ARMED FORCES STRENGTH on April 30, 1966 was 3,005,019, based on preliminary reports. By service, strength is: Army—1,150,488; Navy—741,557; Marine Corps—250,248; and Air Force—862,726. Figures represent full-time regular and reserve on continuous active duty and officer candidates including academy cadets and midshipmen.

SHOULD FRANCE WITHDRAW from NATO as announced, it will lose the nuclear tactical capability provided by the United States, according to U. S. officials. Nuclear weapons are provided only to those fulfilling NATO obligation. The officials said France's withdrawal would also mean withdrawal of nuclear warheads.

RAINY SEASON HAS undoubtedly hampered infiltration of troops and equipment into South Vietnam, according to U. S. officials. They said there is no evidence to support claims of higher infiltration rate than 4,500 monthly previous estimate. It takes several months to estimate infiltration rate with any degree of accuracy, it was explained.

SPACE RESEARCH FOR peaceful purposes gets another boost this fall with joint project by Federal Republic of Germany and United States. Launching of two sounding rockets has several objectives, including investigating physics of comets. NASA furnishes rockets and Germany's Ministry for Scientific Research provides payloads. Agreement specifies results be made freely available to world scientific community.

WILLIAM B. RIEKE has been appointed acting assistant administrator for administration, NASA. He succeeds John D. Young, who accepted Bureau of Budget position as assistant to director.

OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIP USNS Bartlett was launched May 24, 1966 at Portland, Ore. Ship will be equipped to handle new research equipment such as floating instrument platform and deep research vehicle. Main purpose of ship will be as floating laboratory in support of National Oceanographic Research Program. MSTS will operate ship with Civil Service crew.

USS INTREPID ARRIVED on station in RVN making first Far East deployment since WW II. Also, for first time since 1945, its aircraft struck battle targets. Fighting "I" pilots flew 97 sorties in close air support for ground operations within 50-mile radius of Saigon hitting Viet Cong concentrations.

ARMY HAS ORDERED Forward Area Alerting Radar (FAAR) to provide early detection of attacking enemy aircraft for the Vulcan/Chaparral battlefield air defense systems. FAAR system, which also has potential use in other Army air defense systems, will consist of radar, identification equipment, prime power source, and vehicle and communication equipment.

GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE USS Fox was commissioned at Long Beach, Calif., May 28. Ship is named for Gustavus Vasa Fox, first Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Fox is armed with Terrier missiles forward and aft, two 3-inch, 50-caliber guns and torpedoes.

WILLIAM G. McNAMARA, Defense sports coordinator, received diploma from American Athletic Association of the Deaf for assistance to Xth International Games for the Deaf. He served as transportation coordinator and performed other functions for games in Washington, D. C., last June-July.

AAAD ALSO ISSUED resolution acknowledging contributions of Mr. McNamara and military services. Resolution said games could not have been successfully concluded without this assistance.

A SCIENTIST WITH Oceanographic Survey Dept. of U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, John M. Wageman, will travel aboard Royal Navy's H.M. Surveying Ship Vidal working with British on their pneumatic sound system. Vidal is Royal Navy's first vessel designed exclusively for hydrographic surveying.

MORE THAN 15,000 supermarkets and grocery stores are erecting "Flip Your Lid for the USO" displays. Fund raising campaign is sponsored by USO and Maxwell House Division, General Foods Corporation. Shoppers flip Maxwell House Coffee plastic lids into bins. Firm pays $50 to USO for each full bin. Shoppers receive "I Flipped My Lid for the USO" lapel button.

AIR FORCE HAS more than 560 vacancies to be filled in most science and engineering areas through its AFIT program for FY67. Although FY67 application deadline has passed, AFIT will continue to process applications for unfilled programs. All management-type programs have been filled. Procedures for applying for AFIT training are in AFM 50-5.

OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY off Cape Henry, Va., studying sound transmission characteristics of North Atlantic Ocean. USNS James H. Sands serves as tender to SPAR (Stable Platform for Acoustic Research). Sands, new-class research ship designed for oceanographic research, began three-week operation May 16.

SPANISH AIR FORCE has donated a World War II Messerschmidt 109 German fighter to Air Force Museum's collection. Me-109 was transported to Museum's home at Wright-Patterson AFB by an Air National Guard C-124.

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Army Selects 400 Students For 4-Year ROTC Scholarships

Four-hundred outstanding high school graduates have been selected to receive four-year scholarships at colleges and universities offering U.S. Army Reserve Officers Training Corps training.

Earlier, 600 two-year scholarship awards were presented to the most highly qualified college students now completing their second year of Army ROTC.

The 1,000 scholarships are awarded under a new program to provide financial assistance to selected college men who are highly motivated towards careers as Army officers.

Some 10,350 college students graduating this year will be commissioned as Army officers under the Army ROTC program, which produces approximately 80 percent of all second lieutenants entering the Active Army each year.

AF Official Notes Strategic Importance of Hawaiian Islands

The strategic importance of the Hawaiian islands has long been obvious, Under Secretary of the Air Force Norman S. Paul told the Rotary Club of Honolulu, noting that geographically, Hawaii occupies a unique position as one of America's most important command posts.

He said, with headquarters at Pearl Harbor, the Pacific Command guards some 85 million square miles, the largest U.S. military command in the world.

In an Armed Forces Day speech, Secretary Paul explained the significant part played by Hawaii in defense of South Vietnam.

As for the Southeast Asia country, Mr. Paul said the U.S. wants to create, with a minimum of destruction, "a climate of order in which lawful government can function effectively."

Paying tribute to members of the armed forces, Secretary Paul noted, "Without the skilled, dedicated and patriotic men and women who serve their nation in uniform, it would be impossible to meet our national commitments."

XB-70A Reaches Major Testing Goal

The Air Force supersonic XB-70A experimental aircraft reached continuous speeds of 2,000 mph. (Mach 3) at over 70,000 feet for more than 30 minutes at Edwards AFB, Calif. This constituted a major test program goal, proving that sustained triple-sonic speeds is possible for large aircraft.

OAK LEAF CLUSTERS—Four oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal are given to Col. Walter T. Carter by Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter, III, Air University commander at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Col. Carter served as a combat crew member and pilot in SE Asia prior to coming to Maxwell.

Junior ROTC Unit Opens in New Orleans

Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant, USMC, has officially activated the nation's first Marine Corps-oriented Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) unit at Jesuit High School, New Orleans, La.

The Jesuit unit is the first of 1200 units authorized under provisions of the ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964. Similar JROTC programs are planned by Army, Navy and Air Force.

Rep. F. Edward Hebert (D. La.) accompanied Gen. Greene. Rep. Hebert, a Jesuit alumnus, introduced the bill in Congress which established the program.

Currently, plans call for up to ten USMC-oriented NJROTC units at schools across the country in the next two years, with recently retired officers and NCO's serving as instructors.

Annual Pace Awards Presented

Lt. Col. Edwin S. Townsley, Chief, General Materiel Branch, Combat Materiel Div., Office of the Chief of Research and Development, Department of the Army; and John C. Gilbert, Chief, Logistics Planning Div., Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics Data Processing Center, Radford, Va., have received the fourth annual Pace Awards.

The awards, named for Frank Pace Jr., Secretary of the Army from 1950-53, are designed to recognize an Army Staff Officer and a civilian who have made outstanding contributions to the Army during the previous year.

Naval Weapons Station Wins Conservation Award

Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va., received the Secretary of Defense Conservation Award for 1965, the first time the award has been won by a Navy installation.

It is also the first time a relatively small installation has won.

The award was established by Secretary McNamara in 1962 to stimulate and give added incentive for improvement and recognition of armed forces efforts in conservation and management of natural resources.

Lt. Gen. James B. Lampert, USA, Deputy Asst. Secretary of Defense (Manpower), representing Secretary McNamara, made the award to Capt. J. R. Payne, USN, Naval Weapons Station CO.

Army Command Centralizes Local Purchasing in RVN

Army's 1st Logistical Command, Republic of Vietnam, has consolidated all local purchasing by U.S. Defense Department agencies in the RVN to form a centralized U.S. Army purchasing activity.

The new agency will replace the Logistical Command's purchasing and contracting division. It will negotiate, execute and administer contracts with civilian firms in the RVN, Singapore and the Philippines.

Air Cavalrymen Receive Vietnamese Decorations

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky, has presented 13 members of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade with decorations for action during Operation Davy Crockett.

The presentations included the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, awarded to Brigade Commander Col. Hal G. Moore. The unit destroyed a North Vietnamese regular force unit in May.

NEW SKIPPER—Capt. Herbert T. King, USN, has assumed command of NAVSUPPACT in RVN. Capt. King, a qualified submarine commander, came to RVN from Key West, Fla. Test and Evaluation Detachment.

Army Circular Clarifies ROTC Promotion Eligibility

Army has clarified date-of-rank and promotion eligibility provisions for Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) graduates in a new circular affecting some 5,000 officers now on active duty and about 2,500 others yearly.

Information is in Circular No. 624-11, May 13, 1966, which provides comprehensive information covering ROTC cadets graduating in 1965 or later. The circular cites specific examples applying to all graduates.

Rotor Landing Concept Viewed For Spacecraft Applications

Textron Co.'s Bell Helicopter Co. has designed a three-bladed rotor system that could lead to astronauts safely landing their capsules at low speeds like a helicopter.

Successful initial tests of the largest rotor system built so far have been conducted by NASA at Ames Research Center, San Francisco, Calif., where the concept originated.

Personnel Actions

RAdm. Francis J. Blouin, USN, currently Director, Far East Region, Office of Asst. Secretary of Defense/International Security Affairs, nominated for appointment to vice admiral and approved for assignment as Commander Amphibious Force Pacific. **Maj. Gen. Gilbert I. Pritchard, USAF,** Commander, Special Air Warfare Center, Eglin AFB, Fla., to retire Oct. 1. **Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Corbin, USAF,** currently director of legislative liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, named as successor. **Lt. Gen. Robert Hackett, USA,** currently Comptroller of the Army, named for assignment as CG, U.S. Army Air Defense Command, replacing **Lt. Gen. Charles B. Duff, USA,** who is retiring.

AF Lends Helping Hand In Sawmill Delivery

Flying in shifts, aircrews from U.S. Air Force, Southern Command, have delivered a 332,494-pound sawmill in six days from Lima, Peru, to Tournavista, a small city across the Andes.

At the Peruvian government's request, USAF C-130 aircraft completed the mission which normally would have taken months if delivered overland.

The aircrews, all members of Detachment 1, Howard AFB, Panama, are on rotational duty from the 317th Troop Carrier Wing, Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, a TAC unit.

Recreation Fees Eliminated At Some Federal Facilities

Recreation fees will no longer be charged at certain Federal outdoors facilities because of actions announced by Army's Corps of Engineers.

Corps previously designated 955 areas at 95 projects where fees would be required. Under new criteria, fees will be charged at only about 163 areas at 59 different projects.

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